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# LETTER

TO THE

Author of the *Craftsman*,

CONCERNING

REAL CHRISTIANITY,

DISPARAG'D,

Under the NAME of

**METHODISM.**

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L O N D O N:

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TO THE  
AUTHOR of the CRAFTSMAN.

SIR,

**I**N your late Paper of *June 22*, I find (among many to the same Effect) these Words. "*Methodists place all Merit in Faith and Grace, and none in Good Works. This unwarrantable strange Sect, of a Religion founded on Madness and Folly, hold, that there is no Justification by Good Works, but by Faith and Grace only. They hereby banish that divine Part of our Constitution Reason, and cut off the most essential Recommendation to Heaven, Virtue.*"

"Men who are far gone in their *mad Principles of Religion, suspend the Hand of Industry, become inactive, and leave all to Providence, without exercising either their Heads or Hands.*"

"The Doctrine of Regeneration is essential with *Political Methodists: — who are now regenerated, place all Merit in Faith, and have thrown Good Works aside.*"

I am pressed by those to whose Judgment I pay great Regard, to take some notice of these Assertions; and the rather, because you sometimes speak, *as if* you thought the Christian Institution was of God.

Now if you really think so, or if you desire that any Man should believe you do, you must not talk so ludicrously of *Regeneration*; for it is an *Essential Doctrine* of Christianity. And you may probably have heard, or even read in former Years, That it was the Author of this Institution who said, *Except a Man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.*

This

This he represents as the only possible Entrance into the Experimental Knowledge of that *Religion*, which is not *founded* (whatever you may suppose) on either *Madness* or *Folly*: But on the inmost Nature of things, the Nature of God and Man, and the immutable Relations between them.

By this Religion, we do not *banish Reason*, but exalt it to its utmost Perfection; this being in every Point consistent therewith, and in every Step guided thereby.

But you say, "They hereby cut off the most essential Recommendation to Heaven, *Virtue*." What *Virtue*? That of Self-murder? That of casting their own Infants, to be devoured by Bears or Wolves? That of dragging at their Chariot-Wheels, those whose only Crimes were the Love of their Parents, or Children, or Country? These *Roman* Virtues our Religion does cut off; it leaves no place for them. And a reasonable Deist will allow, "That these are not the most essential Recommendation to Heaven." But it is far from cutting off any Sort, Degree, or Instance of *Genuine Virtue*; all which is contained in the Love of God and Man, producing every divine and amiable Temper.

And this Love we suppose (according to the Christian Scheme) to flow from a *Sense* of God's Love to us: Which Sense and Persuasion of God's Love to Man in Christ Jesus, particularly applied, we term *Faith*; a thing you seem to be wholly unacquainted with. For it is not the Faith whereof we speak, unless it be a *Faith working by Love*, a Faith *zealous of Good Works*, careful to maintain, nay, to excell in them. Nor do we acknowledge him to have one Grain of Faith, who is not continually *doing Good*, who is not willing to *spend and be spent*, in *doing all Good*; as he has Opportunity, to all Men.

Whoever therefore they are, that *throw aside good Works*, that *suspend* (as you prettily phrase it) the *Hand of Industry*, become *inactive*, and leave all to *Providence*, without exercising either their Heads or Hands, they are no more led into this by any Doctrine of ours, than by the Writings of Paul of Tarsus.

And

And yet *this unaccountable strange Self*, (so I cordially believe we appear to you) *place no Merit at all in Good Works*; most true. No, nor in *Faith* neither; (which you may think more unaccountable still) but only in *the Blood of the everlasting Covenant*. We do assuredly hold (which I beg to leave with you, and to recommend to your deepest Consideration) That *there is no Justification*, in your Sense, either by *Faith* or *Works*, or both together; *i. e.* That we are not pardoned and accepted with God, for the *Merit* of either, or both; but only, by the *Grace*, or free Love, of God, for the alone *Merits* of his Son, *Jesus Christ*. I am,

SIR, Your Friend,

Tho' not Admirer,

JOHN WESLEY.

